

## Message Text

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15

ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 IGA-02 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

PRS-01 L-03 EB-11 EUR-25 SCA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /140 R

DRAFTED BY D/PW: FASIEVERTS: GM

5/14/73 EXT. 29454

APPROVED BY EA: WHSULLIVAN

EA/ VN: MR. ASKEW

IO: MR. HERZ

AA/ SA: MR. NOOTER

EA: AMB. MARTIN

AA/ SA/ RD: MR. RABIN ( INFO)

----- 072413

R 152255 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092733

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, VN, VS

SUBJECT: RED CROSS INDOCHINA OPERATIONAL GROUP ( IOG):

AID TO PRG

REFS: A. STATE 79625

B. SAIGON 8246

C. SAIGON 8392

D. GENEVA 2093

E. STATE 84788 ( ALL NOTAL)

1. DEPTOFF ( SIEVERTS, D/ PW) MET WITH IOG COORDINATOR

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OLOF STROH SUNDAY, MAY 13, AT INVITATION AND IN OFFICE OF AMERICAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT GEORGE ELSEY. STROH WAS TRANSITING WASHINGTON ON WAY TO DISCUSSIONS WITH UNICEF IN NEW YORK AND CANADIAN RED CROSS IN TORONTO ON SUBJECT OF SUPPORT FOR IOG' S PROGRAMS IN INDOCHINA.

2. STROH STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF RED CROSS MAINTAINING BALANCED PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO ALL SIDES IN INDOCHINA. HE SAID ALL PARTIES HAVE SHOWN SOME DEGREE OF RECEPTIVITY TO IOG OFFERS AND PROGRAMS. IN PRACTICAL TERMS IT WAS CLEAR SUBSTANTIAL PROGRAMS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN NEAR TERM IN RVN, DRV, LAOS AND CAMBODIA, WITH PROGRAM FOR PRG NOW IN TALKING STAGE.

3. PRG. STROH SAID PRG OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE MET IN HANOI REQUESTED "250- BED UNIVERSITY FIELD HOSPITAL CENTER" TO BE DELIVERED IN HANOI- HAIPHONG. THIS WAS A MORE COMPLEX PROJECT THAN HE HAD ANTICIPATED, AND IOG IS PROCEEDING NOW TO DEVELOP SPECIFICS. STROH SAID PRG REPS APPEARED TO ACCEPT POSSIBILITY OF IOG PERSONNEL PARTICIPATING IN DELIVERY AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FACILITY, ALTHOUGH HE CONFESSED UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER THIS WOULD IN FACT BE PERMITTED. HE SAID PLANNING FOR THIS PROJECT ENVISAGES A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT SELF- CONTAINED SECTIONS WHICH COULD BE FINANCED, DELIVERED AND SET UP SEPARATELY, EVEN IN DIFFERENT AREAS. STROH SAID SWEDISH RED CROSS ( OF WHICH HE IS SECRETARY- GENERAL) IS TAKING THE LEAD IN COORDINATION OF THIS PROJECT.

4. COMMENT: STROH IS LEVEL- HEADED TYPE WHO RECOGNIZES PROBLEMS HE FACES IN TRYING TO ARRANGE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN AID FOR PRG. CONSISTENT WITH RED CROSS PRINCIPLES, HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE RED CROSS PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT " IN THE FIELD." HE RECOGNIZES DIFFICULTIES IN WAY OF ACCOMPLISHING THIS IN CASE OF PRG AND APPEARED READY TO LIMIT RC PARTICIPATION TO SOMETHING SHORT OF THAT, SUCH AS CONTACT WITH " PRG" REPS IN HANOI- HAIPHONG, FOR PURPOSE OF EXPLAINING OPERATION OF PROPOSED " UNIVERSITY FIELD HOSPITAL."

5. STROH SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY HIS CONTACTS WITH  
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GVN OFFICIALS, WHICH GAVE HIM IMPRESSION ( SIMILAR TO THAT REPORTED IN REFS B AND C) THAT GVN WOULD NOT OBJECT TO IOG HUMANITARIAN AID TO PRG. HE SAID GVN FACILITATED HIS CONTACT WITH PRG REPS IN SAIGON WHEN HE WAS THERE. DEPTOFF ENCOURAGED STROH TO CONTINUE HIS OWN LIAISON ON THIS SUBJECT WITH GVN.

6. FINANCES: STROH SAID IOG HAS RECEIVED ABOUT 30 MILLION SWISS FRANCS, HAS AN URGENT NEED FOR A SECOND 30 MILLION SFR, AND ADDITIONAL ANTICIPATED NEED FOR A THIRD 30 MILLION SFR, FOR A TOTAL OF 90 MILLION SFR. HE SAID FUNDS HAD BEEN RECEIVED THUS FAR FROM GOVERNMENTS AND/ OR RED CROSS SOCIETIES OF CANADA, JAPAN, AUSTRALIA, W. GERMANY, UK, NETHERLANDS, SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, AND SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES.

7. STROH ALSO SAID HE EXPECTS SMALL DONATION SOON FROM EAST GERMAN RED CROSS, WHICH HE WELCOMES AS AT LEAST TOKEN OF SUPPORT FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TRADITIONALLY RELUCTANT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS PROJECTS AND, IN THIS CASE, DRV PROBABLY PREFERS THESE COUNTRIES CONTINUE BILATERAL AID RATHER THAN POOLING THROUGH IOG. STROH HAS BEEN SEEKING SUPPORT FROM WIDE RANGE OF

GOVTS/ RED CROSS SOCIETIES TO SUBSTANTIATE IMAGE OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR IOG.

8. UNICEF. STROH SAID HE EXPECTS TO SEE LABOUISSIE MAY 15. HE SAID HE MENTIONED TO DRV/ PRG POSSIBILITY OF AID FROM UNICEF THROUGH IOG. THEIR INITIAL REACTION WAS EDGY, BUT WHEN HE EXPLAINED AID WOULD IN FACT COME THROUGH RED CROSS THEY DID NOT POSE OBJECTION. STROH ADMITTED TO UNCERTAINTY ON WHETHER DRV/ PRG FULLY UNDERSTANDS THIS ASPECT.

9. US CONTRIBUTION. STROH CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL FOR US CONTRIBUTIONS TO IOG, WHICH HE HOPED WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL AND WITHOUT STRINGS. HE SAID HE BELIEVED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM USG ( WHICH HE RECOMMENDED BE CHanneled THROUGH AMERICAN RED CROSS) WOULD BE SEEN AS CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROPRIATE FORM OF HUMANITARIAN AID FOR NEEDY PEOPLE IN INDOCHINA AND AS ENDORSEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS ROLE IN PROVIDING SUCH AID. RUSH

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL



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**Subject:** RED CROSS INDOCHINA OPERATIONAL GROUP ( IOG): AID TO PRG  
**TAGS:** EAID, VN, VS  
**To:** SAIGON  
**Type:** TE  
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